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2003 SATURN L200 - 4door - AT-6 - only 16K miles - still in factory warranty - only \$12,900



2003 BUICK CENTURY - AT-6 - LS package - great buy!



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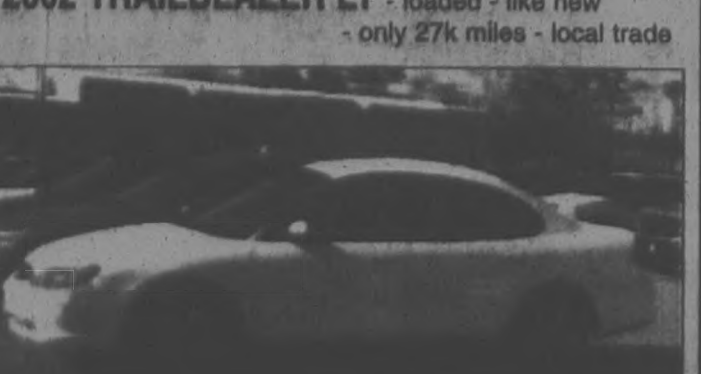
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The Elba Clipper

Volume 107, Number 31

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, January 15, 2004

1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Elba's levee rehabilitation project expected to be complete in April

by Bethany Dye

Project manager Gene Oden said if the weather permits, he expects to complete the levee rehabilitation project by mid-April—nine months ahead of schedule.

As of Dec. 8, Oden said the originally contracted project was 81 percent complete, but he expects to later receive a few add-ons in the form of a modified contract, such as a lighted walking trail around the top of the levee and a pumping station

to be located behind the old high school.

The construction would have been even further along had it not rained so much last summer and last winter, Oden said.

Much work has been done to the levee since the project began in September 2002, and by the end of next month, said Oden, all the major construction work will be complete.

Putting on the finishing touches will keep LJC Construction's hands full until the projected completion date

At Kinston apartment complex

Five people arrested for drugs

108 Georgia Circle, Opp, was arrested in the yard and charged with unlawful possession of a controlled substance. She was placed in the Coffee County Jail under a \$50,000 bond.

Hannah Stanley, age 26, of N. Jackson Street, Opp, was arrested in the yard and charged with unlawful possession of a controlled substance. She was placed in the Coffee County Jail under a \$50,000 bond.

Timothy Grayson, age 33, of 404 Wallace Street, Opp, was arrested in the yard. He was charged with unlawful manufacture of a controlled substance, trafficking in methamphetamine and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia. He was placed in the Coffee County Jail under a \$201,000 bond.

Officials said these arrests are a direct result of citizens growing tired of the onslaught of meth labs operating in their neighborhoods, and calls from concerned citizens are a valuable tool in the fight against these toxic and dangerous lab sites.

Anyone with any information concerning a meth lab is encouraged to call a local law enforcement agency. This information can be reported anonymously.

In Coffee County, call Mark Anderson at 894-5535 ext. 229.

In Elba, call Tony Harrison at 897-2555, and in the Kinston area, call Chief Russell Young at 565-3114.

County BOE recognizes four students for participating in recent Duke University Talent Identification program

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Board of Education held its first meeting of 2004 Thursday evening, Jan. 8, and spent a majority of the meeting recognizing the efforts of four students.

Monica Largess, Brittany Layton, Kristine Fitzgerald and Jon Fuller were honored for their participation and accomplishments in the Duke University Talent Identification Program.

The students were presented

to the board by Becky Hardiman, and she said it is the sixth year the Coffee County School System has participated in the program.

Seventh grade students become eligible to participate in the program after scoring in the 95 percentile of certain aptitude tests, and Hardiman said these four students were among 24,198 to take the SAT or ACT tests in an effort to qualify for state recognition.

Based on their scores from taking the ACT test, Hardiman said the four county students all attained state level in the program, and Fitzgerald made the grand level.

Hardiman credited Vicki Jones, teacher of the county's gifted and talented program, in helping these students reach this level of recognition.

Superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram informed board members of a couple new programs the school system will implement very soon.

Ingram said an after school extended day program will be offered to students in grades 3-8 beginning Thursday, Jan. 22. With this program, she said students will be able to get remedial help in various subjects.

The program will be offered two afternoons per week from 3:15-4:45 p.m. until the first week of May, and Ingram said some of the school system's reg-

Please See BOE, Page 3



LEVEE WORK REACHES PEA RIVER BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY 84. Motorists traveling across the Pea River Bridge on Hwy. 84 in Elba are encouraged to use extreme caution due to the increased presence of workers involved with the levee rehabilitation project. Work recently began on the construction of a flood gate for the bridge bringing more workers to the area. Motorists are asked to follow traffic safety procedures while traveling across the bridge to help ensure the safety of the construction workers. Also, officials with the Elba Police Department remind motorists that speeding fines are doubled in a construction zone; therefore, they strongly recommend traveling at or below the speed limit.

"but you know it's for a good cause."

The Troy Highway, Jackson Street, Caroline Street and Reese Street are all scheduled to be paved and open by this week.

One reason the streets have been and will be closed is to allow work on new gate structures that will be put in several places where the road crosses the levee.

On Caroline Street will be a 4.5-foot roller gate designed to require less maintenance and prove more efficient than the old gate, while Reese Street will feature a smaller one.

Oden said the "massive" gate to be put in place on Highway 84 will be 9.5 feet tall, 45 feet wide and will weigh 20,000 pounds.

The gate itself will slide back

into the levee and can be pulled out in the instance of a flood by attaching a cable from the other side of the structure and hooking up a car battery to provide power.

The gate is designed to slide all the way across the road on rails, and rubber seals around its

Please See LEVEE, Page 2

In an attempt to save money

Commission looks at refinancing its bond issue

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission approved a request during its regular bimonthly meeting Monday, Jan. 12, to look at refinancing its current bond issue.

Commissioner Jim Thompson brought the proposal before the commission and said he and County Administrator Wilson Mobley had been looking at the possibility of refinancing the bond issue.

Thompson said Merchant Capital, LLC, of Montgomery has offered to refinance the bond issue with the stipulation of having the same payment and same payoff.

Thompson said he feels this would be a good move and could save the county anywhere

from \$60 - \$100,000. Therefore, he requested the commission let the company look at refinancing the bond issue and come back with its proposal before March 1, 2004.

At the recommendation of Commissioner Doug Dalrymple, the commission voted to withhold a requested payment to Anderson Builders for construction work on the senior citizen centers at Mount Pleasant and Ino.

Dalrymple said the payment was set to come when the buildings are 85 percent complete.

He said he does not know the status of the Ino building, but the Mount Pleasant building is not even 50 percent complete.

Dalrymple said the building still lacks roofing and brick work, as well as, work to the

inside of the building.

Therefore, he made a motion to hold off on the payment until the buildings are actually 85 percent complete. He received a second from Commissioner Tom Grimley, and the motion passed with all voting in favor except Commissioner Robert Stephens who abstained.

Stephens said he did not vote because he was not sure of the status of the Ino Senior Citizen building.

In other business, the commission:

* Awarded a bid for daily cover mulch to Louisiana Vegetation Management at \$16.70 per bag for a full load and \$17.40 per bag for a half load.

* Awarded a bid for the sewage systems at the Ino and Mount Pleasant Senior Centers to Russell-Septic Tank of Elba for \$3,180 (\$1,590 for each system).

* Appointed Enterprise Mayor Kenneth Boswell to fill the vacancies left by Tim Alford on the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development board and the Southeast Alabama Regional Council on Aging.

* Appointed Commissioner Linda Westbrook to serve as the commission's representative on the Coffee County EMS board.

* Appointed Commissioner Jessie Lewis to fill her late husband's spot and complete his term on the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development board.

* Approved a motion to allow the Town of New Brockton to purchase a surplus vehicle from the sheriff's department for \$900.

* Approved a motion to send out notice that the Coffee County Highway Department is looking to purchase land for dirt pits around the county. County engineer Randy Tindell said the department is looking for five pits in strategic locations.

The next meeting of the Coffee County Commission will be Monday, Jan. 26, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.

Area Happenings

THE NEW BROCKTON HIGH SCHOOL is preparing for the 2004 Miss Elba pageants. The different age divisions will include: Junior Miss Elba (Ages 14 & 15); Little Miss Elba (Ages 12-13); Junior Miss Elba (Ages 10-11); and Miss Elba (Ages 8-11). A meeting will be held Friday, Jan. 16, at 5:30 p.m. at Elba Elementary School for the parents of those interested in participating in the Future Little Miss and Little Miss age divisions.

THE CITY OF ELBA OFFICES will be closed Monday, Jan. 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. There will be standby crews for any emergency with water, electric, sewer or street. To report an emergency, call the Elba Police Department at 897-2555. The garbage pickup schedule is unchanged.

THE TOWN OF NEW BROCKTON OFFICES will be closed Monday, Jan. 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. In case of an emergency, call the New Brockton Police Department at 894-5559.

THE COFFEE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY is continuing Phase II of its water system expansion with a second sign-off meeting Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 6:30 p.m. at Pentec Church. This includes the southern part of Coffee County, and 400-600 sign-ups are needed. This phase will be the last chance residents have to bring the water system to their part of the county. The sign-up fee is \$25. For more information or to sign up, call the Coffee County Water Authority office at 894-4254.

THE THUNDERBOLT AIRMEN will present a Youth Seminar/Workshop serving in New Brockton on Saturday, Jan. 24, and Sunday, Jan. 25. The Youth Seminar will be Saturday, Jan. 24, from 1-3:30 p.m. at the New Brockton High School cafeteria. The seminar is for ages 12-18. The seminar will be held in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS

with Ferrin Cox

Ex Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, who served 23 months in the President's cabinet before being fired, is out with a book "telling it all." It is amazing, when O'Neill was in office, he was the laughing stock of the administration. Now he is getting lots of ink and air time for telling on the Bush administration. Now we have absolutely no idea how presidential cabinet meetings go, or if there is any set rule on such business. Probably each president does it differently. However, it is hard for us to understand why an economics man (Treasury Secretary) should, would or could be involved in discussing and deciding national military and/or intelligence policy. Seems he should be busy trying to keep the economy moving along on an even keel. But remember Paul O'Neill called the Enron debacle, in which corporate fraud cost employees and shareholders billions of dollars and broadly undercut confidence in corporate accounting, "the genius of capitalism." Now we are hearing folks quote his opinions on whether the president should listen to reports or keep interrupting and asking questions.

In case you are left wondering, we put little stock into the critical comments (in a for sale book) of a fired staffer.

Much the same can be said for former baseball star Pete Rose. For years he denied gambling on baseball games. Then he writes a book reportedly admitting he really did bet on his own baseball team and now acts miffed that the public didn't accept him with open arms after his repenting because "he deserves it." Folks, Rose and his gambling don't bother us a bit. That is his cross to bear. However, his being hurt at not being embraced following the confessing does bring out opinions from this corner. Rose or anyone else who has respect from one or a million folks earn it, they don't get it by demanding it. If Pete Rose is worthy of the respect he so openly desires, it will come in time and not his timing. Just writing a book ain't gonna get it. Americans are more demanding than that. It would probably have come faster if he had verbally confessed to his gambling years ago, rather than continually denying it even in face of mountains of evidence. If Pete Rose ever actively gets back into organized baseball or into the Baseball Hall of Fame, it will be because the public and organized baseball want him, not just because he and a few thousand close friends want either or both.

The State of Alabama is working on a brand new drivers license for Alabama citizens. All we can read about it leaves us filled with a bit selfish disappointment you see they apparently won't have it ready in time for our renewal date a few months down the road! This will have us waiting another four years for the new license. We wanted one of these forms that highlights pictures of folks who normally get "carded", in other words those too young to buy tobacco and alcohol. Of course our only chance of getting carded is to prove we qualify for senior discounts, etc. In this moment of true confession, it must be admitted that less and less often there is any need for anyone to even get carded, the respect reserved for "old folks" becomes the routine. For those of you who haven't reached that state yet and are wondering... actually it is kinda nice.

POLICE SERGEANT/SUPERVISOR

The City of Elba, Alabama is accepting applications for the position of Police Sergeant/Supervisor.

Minimum Qualifications:

- (a) High school graduate or GED
- (b) Must possess a valid Alabama Drivers License.
- (c) Must possess a good driving record.
- (d) Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
- (e) Must meet the minimum standards for law enforcement officers as established by Alabama Law. Applicants are certified by the Alabama Peace Officer's Standards and Training Commission are preferred.
- (f) All applicants are subject to drug screening and background check.
- (g) Any combination of education, training, and experience equivalent to a member of the Elba Police Department and a serving patrolman with a minimum of three years continuous in-grade service with the Elba Police Department.
- (h) A completed in-house application.

Pay Range:
\$10.81 to \$15.62 per hour.

Benefits:

- Local Government Health Insurance Plan administered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama
- Participation in State Retirement
- Vacation and sick leave

Application Instructions:

Applications can be obtained by contacting Elba Police Department at 304 Simmons Street, Elba, Alabama between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Closing Date:

Applications will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on the 30th day of January, 2004.

The City of Elba is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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Ricky Mulazir • SPORTS
Heddy J. Cox • BUSINESS MANAGER

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$19 per year
6 Months - \$10, including city & state tax
Alabama Counties - \$21 per year - including tax
6 months - \$11
Outside Alabama - \$24 per year - 6 months - \$13

LEVEE

(Continued from Page One)

edges will help keep water from leaking through.

The 10 inches of grout the rail lies on is made of concrete that costs \$2,700 per cubic yard, as opposed to regular concrete, which costs \$65 per cubic yard.

"This concrete is designed for the long haul," Oden said, "for the constant use of traffic coming over it."

Under the road at the gates lie 10 feet of regular concrete.

Besides the gate structures, more new additions have been made to the levee designed to protect the city from flooding.

Trenches, approximately 35-40 feet deep were dug down the

center of the levee and filled with slurry, a substance made of water and a clay-like mineral called bentonite.

As workers dig the trench, they immediately fill it with slurry, using hydrostatic pressure to prevent the walls from caving in, much like methods used for drilling wells.

The precisely mixed slurry remains in a gelatinous state so that water can't seep through or run under the levee.

Each 1,500-pound bag of the naturally occurring dry bentonite is shipped in from Wyoming, and Oden said about 600 bags would be used for the

levee.

After the trench is filled with slurry, a three feet thick, four feet wide clay cap is placed on top of most of the levee, and a concrete cap is applied to areas that endure the strains of road traffic.

A concrete cutoff wall was also built in places where the road runs over the levee.

The walls stretch to the depth of the slurry wall and are two feet wide.

By the end of the work, the levee will be raised approximately 7.5 feet higher, and with the newly increased width of the levee, the slope will change from one foot up to every two feet out to one foot up to every three feet out.

Dirt is placed and packed down on the levee in eight-inch lifts, or eight inches deep at a time.

Each lift is density tested and must meet the 95 percent maximum density standard before another lift can be applied.

"There is tremendous quality control work on this job," Oden said.

He said a full-time quality control manager was hired to oversee the construction, and an independent laboratory performs soil testing.

A new manhole system is designed to prevent water from running inside the levee through welded pipes and manholes.

Another significant part of the

project has been the replacing and repairing of nine drainage structures around the levee.

By the end of February, Oden said he expects to have the slurry wall finished, the gates in place, all roads paved, the water retention area behind the old high school done and grass seeded on top of the levee.

After that, he said only smaller, miscellaneous jobs would be left to finish, such as installing guardrails, gutters and curbs.

ALERT

Due to widespread cases of flu, pneumonia and respiratory infections in the community, Elba General Hospital and Nursing Home requests there be no routine visiting until further notice.

Visiting of patients and residents by small children is strictly prohibited. This restriction has been issued in order to protect the public, hospital patients and nursing home residents.

Should a visit by family members be necessary, report to the nurse's station for instructions.

Cooperation in this disease prevention effort is appreciated.

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Remember Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Junk!!
And I'm Not Happy About Our Trade Unless & Until You Are!!!!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to address this letter to Mayor Grimes, Mr. Grantham, Mr. Culver and the city employees. Thank you so much for taking prompt action in helping get rid of the birds that have embedded themselves on the East side of the Pea River Bridge.

I think I speak for the residents who live on Brunson St. Dr. Robert R. Old, Samson Rd., and 84 East in giving many thanks for these birds were a great concern. We were starting to find them dead on the roads and in our yards, and the smell

was awful. As many birds that were bedding there this could not have been healthy.

So again thanks and its good to know there is help when you need it.

Betty Homyak
Brunson St. resident

Dear Editor,

I am a fifth grade student. I am doing a project on Alabama. Could you please send postcards, pictures, or other interesting artifacts about your state? Anything you could send would be helpful. Thank you very much.

BOE

(Continued from Page One)

ular teachers have agreed to help.

Another program soon to be implemented is the Parent Involvement Program in which Ingram said Microsoft Word and the Internet will be taught to parents. She said the purpose of this program is to better equip parents in the field of technology so they will be better prepared to help their children with

studies.

This program will be taught two nights per week for two weeks from 6-7:30 p.m.

In regards to personnel, the board approved the retirement request of Beverly Liprot and accepted a letter of resignation from Trent Trawick.

Sincerely,

Will

Attn: Will
Kingfield Elementary School
102 Salem Road
Kingfield, ME 04947

NOTICE

Pursuant to §17-22A-8, Code of Alabama, 1975 - Elected officials, candidates and PAC's file with the Probate Court or the Secretary of State an annual report of contributions and expenditures for the year just past (2003). The deadline for filing is Jan. 11, 2004. Forms may be obtained from the Probate Office by calling 897-2211 or 347-2688 or visiting the website at www.probateoffice.info or contacting the Secretary of State's office at 334-242-7210 or their website at www.sos.al.us.

CARD OF THANKS

HEAD FAMILY

The family of Maggie E. Head would like to thank each one for their expressions of sympathy in visits, cards, telephone calls, and food. The Bethlehem Church family and pastor Caldwell.

Thanks to Dr. Dyess and staff and Elba General Hospital and staff.

God Bless.
Peggy Head McBride and the immediate Head family

1/15 pd.



IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK!



Robert Falcon Scott, Courtesy of Columbia University.

At the age of thirty-two, I became the first secretary of the Treasury for the United States. At the age of forty-two, I was killed as a hero.

January 15, 1912. The last day of my life. I came to the end of my journey to the South Pole. I was the first to reach the South Pole. I was the first to reach the South Pole. I was the first to reach the South Pole.

Go to <http://www.jmu.edu/madison/hamilton.htm>

Alabama FAST FACT



Robert Falcon Scott, Courtesy of Columbia University.

What was to have been the crowning achievement of Scott's

ELEVEN MILES TO SALVATION

"It seems a pity, but I do not think I can write more... For God's sake look after our people." Robert Falcon Scott, Final Journal Entry, March 29, 1912



Expedition members at the South Pole. Courtesy of the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

On January 17, 1912 British Naval Officer Robert Falcon Scott reached the South Pole. With four others, the 800-mile march halfway across the continent had taken two months. Expecting to be the first to reach the pole, they discovered that the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen had beaten them by a month. Scott's journal reflected the group's disappointment.

"Great God! This is an awful place and terrible enough for us to have labored to it without the reward of priority."

What was to have been the crowning achievement of Scott's

THE WEB JOURNEY

The Race to the Pole

The famous British explorer Robert Falcon Scott reached the South Pole. With four others, the 800-mile march halfway across the continent had taken two months. Expecting to be the first to reach the pole, they discovered that the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen had beaten them by a month. Scott's journal reflected the group's disappointment.

"Great God! This is an awful place and terrible enough for us to have labored to it without the reward of priority."

What was to have been the crowning achievement of Scott's

second expedition to Antarctica had turned into a bitter disappointment. The return journey would not be the triumph they had expected.

"Well, we have turned our back now on the goal of our ambition and must face our 800 miles of solid dragging - and good-bye to most of the day-dreams!"

Hauling their own supply sleds, the explorers began their return march. None of them would live to see their base camp. Although it was summer, the Antarctic weather proved deadly.

The first of the five companions to die was P.O. Evans, who succumbed in mid-February. Unable to keep up with the others, they found him "on his knees with clothing disarranged, hands uncovered and frostbitten, and a wild look in his eyes," according to Scott. On the night of February 17, 1912, Evans died in his sleep.

The four surviving members pressed on. A month later, Titus, Scott's driver, died. On the morning of March 17, he asked his companions to go on, leaving him in his sleeping bag to die. They refused, forcing him to accompany them on

the day's march. The following morning, they awoke to a blinding blizzard. Dates told his companions "I am just going outside and may be some time." They never saw him again.

Nearly out of supplies, the three remaining explorers were determined to reach a food depot they had set up before the journey. Four days later, they were only eleven miles away, but the blizzard had become impenetrable. Helplessly, the dying Scott wrote on March 22:

"... no fuel and only one or two of food left - must be near the end. Have decided it shall be natural - we shall march for the depot with or without our effects and die in our tracks."

They never had the opportunity. Unable to leave their tent, because of the blizzard, Scott wrote his final entry on March 29:

"It seems a pity, but I do not think I can write more."

A rescue party found their bodies the following November. They were in their sleeping bags, eleven miles from salvation.

Next Week: Ernest Shackleton's expedition that planned to make the 1,700 mile journey across Antarctica.

Cold Science

The story of the race to the South Pole is a dramatic tale of exploration, discovery, and the human spirit. It is a story that has inspired generations of explorers and adventurers. It is a story that has shaped the way we think about the world and our place in it.

Web Address: <http://www.usatoday.com/weather/resources/coldscience/astcdt.htm>

Web Address: <http://www.south.pole.com/p0000089.htm>

Web Address: <http://www.nmm.ac.uk/site/request/setTemplate:singlecontent.contentTypeA/ContentWebDocContentId:1059/viewPage1>

Web Address: <http://www.ashf.org/price.html>

For their generous contributions that ensure teachers and students receive all learning materials at no cost, we would like to thank the following supporters of our Community Newspaper in Education Program

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Obituaries

BENNY DARRELL SPANN

Mr. Benny Darrell Spann, age 50, of Opp, AL, died Jan. 8, 2004 at his residence.

Graveside services were held Jan. 10, 2004 at New Hope Cemetery with Reverend Hubert Spann and James Davis officiating. Burial followed in New Hope Cemetery with Hayes Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Survivors include his mother: Nettie Ruth Spann, Opp; two brothers: Jimmy G. Spann, Elba; George M. Spann, Opp; three sisters: Jo Ruth Sasser, Andalusia; Martha Lee, Chattanooga, Tenn.; and Bobbie Kendall, Marianna, Fla.

PEARLENE JACKSON

Mrs. Pearlene Jackson, age 72, died Jan. 1, 2004.

Funeral services were held Jan. 10, 2004 at Southside Church of Christ in Enterprise with Bro. Ira H. Belford officiating. Burial followed at Mt. Calvary Cemetery with Coleman Funeral Home directing.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Jackson Jr.; two sisters, Catherine Helms and Essie Bullard.

Survivors include a daughter, Sandra Langoba Jackson, Birmingham, Ala.; one sister, Deonia Wood, Enterprise, Ala.; one brother-in-law, Dallas Bullard, Enterprise, Ala.

ASHLEY MICHAEL WISE

Mr. Ashley Michael Wise, age 31, of Elba, AL, died Jan. 10, 2004 at UAB Hospital in Birmingham, Ala.

Funeral services were held Jan. 13, 2004 from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Dr. Tony Dye officiating. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include his wife, Stacy Nunn Wise, and daughter, Emily Morgan Wise, Elba; his mother, Rita Ann

Sondergaard, Pensacola, Fla.

his father, Michael William Wise, Jacksonville, N.C.; one sister, Karly Amanda Wise, Pensacola, Fla.; his maternal grandparents, Jessie and Lela Smart, paternal grandmother, Katherine Turner, all of Elba; and his paternal grandfather, Francis William "Bill" Wise, O'Brien, Fla.

Survivors include his mother: Nettie Ruth Spann, Opp; two brothers: Jimmy G. Spann, Elba; George M. Spann, Opp; three sisters: Jo Ruth Sasser, Andalusia; Martha Lee, Chattanooga, Tenn.; and Bobbie Kendall, Marianna, Fla.

CLIFFORD EARL BLUE

Clifford Earl (Razoo) Blue, age 69, died Jan. 7, 2004.

Funeral services were held Jan. 12, 2004 at Elba Zion Baptist Church in Elba with Rev. Lovell Martin officiating. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery with Coleman Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include two sons: Timothy Blue, Ralphdale, Ala.; two daughters: Yolanda Blue, Miranda Blue; one sister: Sylvia Terrell; one brother: Edward (Barbara) Blue; and nine grandchildren.

MAGGIE E. HEAD

Mrs. Maggie E. Head, age 79, died Jan. 7, 2004.

Funeral services were held Jan. 10, 2004 at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Elba with Daryl Caldwell officiating. Burial followed at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery with Hammond Funeral Home directing.

Mrs. Head was preceded in death by her husband, Luc

Survivors include Peggy

(Leonard) McBride, Linda Head, both of Elba, Ala.; Lula James Lindsey, Emma James King, both of Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; Mary (James) Hooks, Frankie (Willden) Head, Charlie (Karen) Head, all of Opp, Ala.; Don Head, Elba; Robert (Vena) Head, Branley, Ala.; R.C. (Marylene) Tillis of Aurora, Illinois; six brothers, two sisters and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Jan. 16, 2004 at Cornerstone Church, Opp, Ala., with Rev. V.J. Coleman officiating. Burial will follow at Harding Street Cemetery in Opp. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time and will be announced by Coleman Funeral Home of Elba, Ala.

VERA MAE ALLEN

Mrs. Vera Mae Allen, age 89, of Opp, Ala., died Jan. 10, 2004 at Mizell Memorial Hospital in Opp.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Jan. 16, 2004 at Cornerstone Church, Opp, Ala., with Rev. V.J. Coleman officiating. Burial will follow at Harding Street Cemetery in Opp. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time and will be announced by Coleman Funeral Home of Elba, Ala.

Pre-need funeral planning now available at Hayes Funeral Home

For details Call 897-2225

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CHURCH & AREA NEWS

Marlene Renner to be keynote speaker for First Ladies Heart 2 Heart Winter Conference at First Baptist Church in Enterprise

By Teresa W. Hall

Marlene Renner was an innocent 12-year-old tomboy with more interest in horseback riding than in boys when she went on a camping trip with her family in 1965 and a traumatic act of violence against her changed her life forever.

In her book, *The Elephant in My Living Room*, Marlene says, "That's the day the elephant barged into the living room of my life." She defines an elephant as a blind spot or an issue that causes us to trample on the relationships in our lives because we haven't dealt with it. Since her book was published in 2003, Marlene has appeared in two national TV interviews on the 700 Club, as well as on several other TV, radio and book signing appearances throughout the United States.

Typical elephants are divorce, abortion, adoption, alcoholism, addictions, physical or verbal abuse, marital problems, rape, serious illness, death of a loved one, unforgiveness, guilt, expectations, rejection...the list is endless.

She was affected physically, emotionally, relationally and spiritually. It impacted her self-esteem as she thought of herself as damaged goods. "I was so afraid that if people knew who I really was, they wouldn't like me," said Renner as she continued to live behind the facade that she had her life together.

In her book, she reveals the good, the bad, and the ugly to show that in transparency, healing is possible. Her healing process began with the forgiveness of her rapist, and she shares that it is not instantaneous; it is a process. Her horn in the flesh will continue to be her tongue and anger.

Everyone has an elephant. Some have a whole zoo. The writing of her book is to encourage others who are hurting to cage their elephants and learn valuable communication and life principles to apply to everyday challenges. Her desire is that God can remove scars enabling anyone to live a free, joyful and victorious life.

Marlene Zillmann Renner, a wonderful communicator, will be the keynote speaker at the First Ladies Heart 2 Heart Winter Conference titled: "It's a Jungle Out There" to be held at the First Baptist Church of Enterprise on Friday evening and Saturday, February 20-21, 2004. Marlene holds a B.A. in

Marlene Renner

English and Education and an M.A. in Counselor Education. She is a veteran English and speech teacher, an avid swimmer, an inspirational speaker, and an active volunteer in her community. She resides in Ohio with her husband Dan. Her books will be available for purchase at the conference.

The purpose of the conference is to encourage women and teen young ladies, 10th grade and above, in their ongoing personal relationship with the Lord. In addition to the keynote speaker, workshops featuring 8 different speakers will challenge and encourage all who attend. Workshop subjects include: The Beast Within, Caregiving, Prayer, Godly Encouragement, Healthy Temples, Freedom from Fear, Organizational Skills and a special session for teens on Daring to be Different. Praise, worship, and delicious food will be integral to the conference.

Information about registration, cost, and childcare may be obtained by calling the First Baptist Church of Enterprise at 334-393-LOVE. It is important that you pre-register prior to February 13.

The McKameys to be in concert January 15th at Country Cathedral

The McKameys will be in concert at Country Cathedral Assembly of God on January 15, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at Country Cathedral is located on Hwy 84 about 5 miles east of Opp, Ala. Everyone is invited to attend.

WORSHIP AT THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE THIS SUNDAY!

ROUND & ABOUT WITH ERIA 897-2006

Scripture: Psalm 29:1-11

***Thinking of you, praying for you: Willie Dorsey Smith, Ricardo Cook, Dorothy Daniels, Ruth Belcher, Johnnie R. Belcher, Clarence Taylor, The Blue Family, Lela Tyson, Lizzie Tyson, Mary E. Holley and Mattie Belcher.

***January Birthdays: Effie Lavon Rideaux - Jan. 12, Mary Coleman - Jan. 13, Tameka Tillis - Jan. 13, Helen Phillips - Jan. 14, Carolyn Lawrence - Jan. 14, Glenette Hall - Jan. 16 and Castella Lawrence - Jan. 17 Building Fund Rally at Bethel Friendship Church of Orion.

God Power House Church to hold gospel singing

God Power House Church at 603 Smith Ave. will host a gospel concert on Jan. 17 at 6:30 p.m. The featured group will be the

Hodge Family of Texas. Everyone is invited to attend. Snacks will be served after the concert.

Glenwood Assembly of God to host gospel singing on Saturday, January 17

Glenwood Assembly of God will host a gospel singing Saturday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. service tribute planned for Monday, January 19

A service tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be held Monday, Jan. 19, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Coffee County Bus Shop, formerly Warren Smith High School, in New Brockton.

At 11 a.m., a program will be held at Greater Springfield Baptist Church in New

Brockton with guest speaker, Rev. Chester A. Hammonds Jr., pastor of Pleasant Shade Missionary Baptist Church in Enterprise.

In case of inclement weather, all activities will be held at the Greater Springfield Baptist Church.

Benefit barbecue planned at Elba Church of God on Saturday

The Elba Church of God is hosting a benefit barbecue this Saturday. Serving will begin at 11:00 a.m. All proceeds go to the Church Community Benevolence Fund. Call to order at the church (334) 897-2989 or

897-1593. Plates contain BBQ pork, hash, rice, bread, extra sauce, and statuts. BBQ pork is also available by the lbs. Our barbecue is served fresh and hot (delivery available).

Dr. James A. Auchmuty to be installed as Pastor Emeritus, Sunday January 18, in Birmingham

On Sunday, January 18th, 2004, Shades Crest Baptist Church, of Birmingham, AL, will install Dr. James A. Auchmuty, Jr. as Pastor Emeritus. This is the first initiative to be taken in celebration of his 50th year of ministry during 2004.

Dr. Auchmuty served as pastor of Shades Crest for 27 years; April, 1972 to April, 1999. For more than half of Shades Crest's history, Dr. Auchmuty's heart, mind and spirit shaped our life as a church. Dr. Auchmuty will be the morning preacher on January 18th.

Dr. Auchmuty is a graduate of Lanett (AL) High School (1953), Howard College (B.A., 1957), Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (B.Div., 1960 and Th.M., 1962), The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (D.Min., 1967) and received the Honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree from Judson College in 1975.

He pursued continuing education studies in England and Scotland (1992), Israel (1998) and Israel, Jordan and Egypt (2001).

He served as pastor of Alabama Baptist churches in Hapeville, Lafayette, Aliceville, Abbeville and Elba prior to becoming pastor of Shades Crest. In 1985, his book, *Brothers of the Bible*, was published by Broadman Press. Committed to historic Baptist

Faith Hill Assembly of God benefit gospel singing set for January 24

A benefit gospel singing will be held on January 24, 2004 at 7 p.m. at Faith Hill Assembly of God in Rutledge, Ala. Featured groups will be the Lighthouse

Coffee County Schools

Menu

January 19-23, 2004

BREAKFAST

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LIFESTYLES

Hodge-Busbee wedding held at Spanish Fort, Alabama

Mrs. Paula F. Busbee of Daphne, Alabama and Dr. Benton L. Busbee of Troy, Alabama announce the marriage of their daughter, Jacquelyn Gentry Busbee, to Steven Lawrence Hodge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Dewayne Hodge of Elba, Alabama. The bride is the granddaughter of Mr. Sarah Johnson of Daphne, Alabama and the late Mr. Paul G. Fagarty and Mrs. Ethel Busbee of Mobile, Alabama and the late Mr. Lloyd C. Busbee. The groom is the grandson of Maynard and Vivian Brunson of Elba, Alabama; Ms. Joyce Draper of Mooresville, North Carolina and Mr. Fred Hodge of Kinston, Alabama. The bride is a 1998 graduate of Daphne High School and the groom is a 1996 graduate of Zion Chapel High School. The bride and groom are both graduates of The State University in Troy, Ala. and currently reside and work in the Troy area. The wedding took place January 10, 2004 at Spanish Fort United Methodist Church, Spanish Fort, Ala. A reception immediately followed at the Daphne Civic Center.



Mrs. Steven Lawrence Hodge

Coffee County Education Retirees Association to meet

The Coffee County Education Retirees Association will have a luncheon meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 20 at Westside Baptist Church in Elba at 11:30 a.m. Marion Brunson will speak of the topic of "Coffee County Folklore." To make reservation call Joan Lewis at 347-4612.

Book signing for Ginger Hanson to be held at Enterprise Public Library

The Enterprise Public Library and Friends of the Enterprise Public Library are hosting a book signing for Ginger Hanson on Saturday, January 17, 2004 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the library on 101 E. Grubbs Street. Ms. Hanson will be signing copies of her first novel, *Tennessee Waltz*. The public is cordially invited to attend.

EOCC offers new special interest course - Beginning Chess

Enterprise-Ozark Community College offers a new special interest course, Beginning Chess, which teaches the game to those who have very little knowledge of how to play. Bring to class a desire to learn. There is a \$35.00 fee for this four-session course which meets Thursdays, February 5-26, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The registration deadline is January 29. For more information, call 347-2623, ext. 2234.

Youth Wildlife competitions announced

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Alabama Wildlife Federation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge invite students to participate in the 2004 AWF/Ireland Youth Wildlife Art Contest and the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Art Competition. Both contests are open to all students and home school students in grades K-12. Groups are broken into categories: grades K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. The Ireland Contest also includes a category for Special Education students. *William R. Ireland, Sr. Youth Wildlife Art Contest* For nearly 20 years, the Alabama Wildlife Federation's Ireland Youth Wildlife Art Contest has recognized the outstanding artistic abilities of Alabama students, while increasing students' knowledge and awareness of wildlife and wildlife habitat in our state. Students are encouraged to research their subjects to learn more about the species and its habitat requirements. The subject matter must be a wildlife species indigenous to the state of Alabama. This is an excellent opportunity for teachers to integrate language arts, science, geography and the arts into an entertaining and educational project. Visit the Alabama Wildlife Federation's website at www.alabamawildlife.org or call 1-800-822-9453 to learn more details about the contest.

Federal Junior Duck Stamp Competition Modeled after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Duck Stamp art competition, the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest is an integrated art and science curriculum developed to teach environmental science and habitat conservation. It has been designed to fit in with existing programs in these areas and conform to state and national curricular standards. The program incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles and crosses cultural, ethnic, social and geographic barriers to teach a greater awareness of or nation's natural resources. Entries are limited to specific North American species. Visit the competition web site, duckstamps.fws.gov, for a complete listing.

The top winning artists for both contests will be awarded plaques, art supplies, and \$50 for their schools' art programs. They will also be recognized at an awards luncheon on Saturday, April 24, in Montgomery. The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest's "Best of Show" winner for the state will also be entered into the national competition. The national winner's artwork will be used to create the Federal Junior Duck Stamp for next year.

The deadline for entries in both contests is March 15, 2004. For additional entry requirements, visit the following websites: www.alabamawildlife.org and duckstamps.fws.gov or call 1-800-262-3151.

NEW ARRIVAL

SARAH KATE RHODES

Jud and Susan Rhodes announce the birth of their daughter Sarah Kate Rhodes, born on December 18, 2003. She weighed 6 lbs. 9 ozs. and was 19 inches long.

Grandparents are Dolin and Naoma Clark of Opp, Ala.; Monica Rhodes and the late Fred Rhodes of Opp, Ala.



Sarah Kate Rhodes



Kaylee Marie Fundum

Kaylee Fundum celebrates third birthday

Kaylee Marie Fundum of Dothan, Ala. celebrated her third birthday on November 22. She celebrated her birthday with friends at Kiddie College Daycare in Dothan. Kaylee was also honored with a Swan Lake Barbie Party at her home. Kaylee is the daughter of Shane and Anna (Brooks) Fundum. She is the granddaughter of Tommy and Julia Brook of Elba, Gene and Patty Fundum of Athens, Ala.

Reception to be held for Mayor Kenneth Boswell in Enterprise

The City of Enterprise and Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, Inc. cordially invite the public to attend a reception honoring Mayor Kenneth Boswell and Councilman Russell Tuesday, January 20, 2004 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at Enterprise City Hall, RSVP: 347-0581.

Retirement Reception planned for Angela Hughes & Sandra Coffey

The Coffee County Extension Staff is holding a retirement reception honoring, Sandra Coffey and Angela Hughes on Sunday, January 18, 2004 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Community Room of the Coffee County Farm Center Complex in New Brockton, Ala.

Deadline

For Social

News Is

Monday!

NOTICE

SCHOOLS

School and Club Reminders:

by Brittany Cooper

• VICA Members who want a t-shirt, sign up in Mr. Lawford's room. Cost is \$9.25 and \$10.25 for XL or larger.

• Feb. 18th - Mr. Parker w/ Balfour will meet w/ 10th grade ring committee at 1:30 p.m.

• Anyone from Mrs. Norris' 1st semester advanced English 12th grade class interested in the Coca-Cola Scholarship should see Mrs. Norris ASAP.

• Seniors should see Mrs. Norris to select their portrait for the yearbook.

• The Alabama Direct Assessment will be administered to 7th graders on Feb. 25th and to 10th graders on Feb. 26th.

• The SAT/10 and Otis Lennon School Ability Test will be administered to 7th & 8th graders during the month of April. 7th and 8th graders will take the following subtests: Reading, Math, Language, Science, Social Science and OLSAT. Dates will be announced soon.

Top five selected for AEC essay contest

by Mary Katherine Head

Every year juniors in the Advanced English class at Elba High School are required to write a researched essay with their topic as Alabama Electric Cooperative. However, this is not only a requirement for the class, but it is also a contest sponsored by the course, Alabama Electric Cooperative.

Mrs. Kathy Patten, the current



Tiger Tales

Editors:
Brittany Cooper
& Christy Eubanks

EHS Student Spotlight

by Karrie Copeland

This week's student spotlight focuses on another high school student.

Roneene Copes-Brown is the 17-year-old daughter of Ronnell and Rev. Elsie Copes of Elba.

Roneene is involved in numerous clubs including FCCLA, FBLA and FCS. She is a senior at Elba High School and also participates in the Marching Tiger Band where she is a member of the color guard.

In her spare time, she likes to play volleyball, twirl her flag and make up new routines. She also likes to listen to music and shop.



Roneene Copes-Brown

Congratulations to Roneene and keep up the good work.

The changing faces of the EHS lunchroom

by Christy Eubanks

A familiar face is missing at lunchtime. The face is that of Mrs. Ada Knight.

Mrs. Knight has worked in the Elba High School lunchroom for 15 years and has served as the lunchroom manager for the past few years, but as the students of Elba High recently prepared to get out for Christmas break, Mrs. Knight prepared for her own break, retirement.

She would not be working in the lunchroom when second semester began. Instead, the position of manager would be filled by Mrs. Nancy Marler, who previously served as assistant manager.

While losing a familiar face, the Elba High School lunchroom has also gained two new faces, Mrs. Cindy Bedsole and Mrs. Edith Sasser.

Mrs. Sasser came to the high school after working in the elementary lunchroom for five years.

She now holds the position of assistant manager.

You will be greatly missed Mrs. Knight. Enjoy your retirement.



EHS principal Johnny Dunn with Mrs. Ada Knight

To the new faces in the lunchroom - welcome to Elba High School and may you have as many enjoyable years at EHS as Mrs. Knight had.



Cindy Bedsole and Edith Sasser

Elba Elementary School Menu Jan. 19 - 23, 2004

BREAKFAST

Monday - King/Leo Holiday

Tuesday - Pancake Pup, & Syrup, Cereal, Juice, Milk

Wednesday - Biscuit & Jelly, Sausage, Cereal, Juice, Milk

Thursday - Cinnamon Toast, Cheese, Cereal, Juice, Milk

Friday - Cheese Orits, Toast & Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk

LUNCH

Monday - King/Leo Holiday

Tuesday - Pizza, Green Salad, Corn, 1/2 Orange, Milk

Wednesday - Turkey Sandwich, Buttered Carrots, Green Beans, Sliced Pears, Milk

Thursday - Taco Salad, Corn on Cob, 1/2 Apple, Milk

Friday - Hoagie, French Fries, Lettuce, Tomato, Dill Pickles, Oatmeal Raisin Cookie, Milk

Character Trait

by Meredith English

I have chosen respect as this week's character trait. I chose this certain quality because it seems to be a very rare quality these days, especially in the young generations.

I know your thinking that this is strange, an eighteen year old talking about younger generations lacking in respect. But it's true. A lot of my peers, younger teenagers, and even some young adults have lost that age-old characteristic.

Webster's Dictionary defines respect as v. To show consideration or esteem for; to relate to. n. Courtesy or considerate treatment. A lot of people that I have encountered act as if they could care less whose toes they may step on or whose path they may cross. Now I am not saying that ALL the young, adults, or teenagers have bad manners or lack of respect, but it is a growing problem.

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH, EDUCATION & SCHOOLS



PICTURE OF THE WEEK (by Yonnie Procter)...No, Reese, you can not drink that!

Cosmetologist CEU seminar to be at LBWCC - MacArthur

LBW Community College - MacArthur Campus will offer an Instructor and Master Cosmetologist Seminar on Sunday, Feb. 8, and Monday, Feb. 9.

This seminar has been approved by the Alabama Board of Cosmetology for 16 contact hours of continuing education credit. Successful completion of this two-day seminar qualifies participants for 2004 renewal.

This seminar is designed for those people who are currently

foiling, esthetics class - demo, state board update, and public health issues and concerns.

Advance registration is requested. There will be a \$100 fee for the seminar which includes all course materials, seminar, breaks, lunches and certificate of completion. After Jan. 30, registration fee will be \$120.

For more information regarding registration please contact LBW Community College - MacArthur Campus at (334) 493-3573, ext. 5344.

SCHOOLS

Angels Among Us

by Katie Richardson

In the spirit of the holiday season, it is always better to give than to receive. The New Brockton High School chapter of SGA displayed an angel tree in the school office this past holiday season. On the tree were 24 needy students in grade 7 through 12.

SGA sponsor Mary Ann Hall said the angel tree project was important "because there were so many unfortunate students that needed providing for and to fulfill happiness in."

Every other club at New Brockton adopted an angel to sponsor as well, and the needy students received items such as socks, sweat suits, perfumes and make-up, watches and games.

The season of giving inspired many students and faculty at New Brockton High School. Needy students were given the joy they wouldn't otherwise experience thanks to the NBHS SGA.

FROM THE COCKPIT

New Brockton School News
Sponsors: Lori Cotney & Tracy Whittaker

Coach Justin Jones joins N.B.H.S. staff

by Sonya Hornsby

Recently there has been a new face around New Brockton High School. That is the face of Coach Justin Jones who will be replacing Coach Trent Trawick and assisting Coach Garner with basketball.

Coach Jones is originally from Enterprise and attended Enterprise High School. After graduation he attended the University of West Alabama where he majored in physical education. He played football, basketball and baseball in high school and played football at college.

His favorite football team is Florida State University, his favorite basketball team is the Dallas Mavericks and his favorite baseball team is the Oakland A's.

Coach Jones is married to Laney Jones and has one daughter, Anna. He has two younger siblings, one brother (19) and one sister (16).

He said he is enjoying New Brockton so far. He likes the size of the school and the students.

Coach Jones' role model is his grandfather because he is a prime example of a man of God.



Coach Justin Jones (center) with several of his students

Dallas Mavericks and his favorite baseball team is the Oakland A's.

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He said he is enjoying New Brockton so far. He likes the size of the school and the students.

Coach Jones' role model is his grandfather because he is a prime example of a man of God.



New Brockton Elementary School kindergartners presented a Christmas program prior to the holiday. Pictured (left to right) are: Alex Cotton, Wyatt Moore and Timmy Smith with Austin McWaters in the back.

N.B.H.S. Faculty Spotlight

by Freda Kelley

Our faculty spotlight for the month of January is Brad Garner.

Coach Garner has taught seventh and eighth grade science for four years at NBHS. He coaches Varsity and B-team basketball as well as Junior Varsity football.

He lives in Andalusia with his wife Becky Garner and their two children Peyton (6) and Emory (2). He enjoys playing a round of golf every now and then, as well as going hunting.

When Coach Garner was younger, he attended Pleasant Home High School and later went on to the University of Montevallo.

Garner says what he likes about teaching science is the way everyday occurrences can be explained by scientific facts. "It seems to make science more fun," he said.

The branch of science he is most interested in is biology.

Coach Garner likes to use humor to relate to his students. It helps him get on their level he believes. He also likes to use shocking facts to get their attention at times.

Besides science Coach Garner likes to teach his students how to take responsibility for their own actions. One way he does this is through their grades. However, we all know every great person has their pet



Coach Brad Garner

peevish, and Coach Garner is an unorganized student.

The part of New Brockton Brad enjoys the most is the closeness of all the students and faculty.

"From a coaching standpoint, I like the way parents are willing to pitch in and help anytime. New Brockton reminds me a lot of where I went to school," he said.

Coach Garner's most memorable event at New Brockton was when the Gamecocks made the football playoffs last year.

Coach Garner is an excellent teacher, great coach, and an all around good guy. So it should be obvious as to why he is this month's "Faculty Spotlight."

SALUTE!!

Christmas pageant winners were:



From left - Sara Hancock, first alternate; Peyton Edberg, winner; Robyn Watson, second alternate; and Sutton McCall, third alternate.



From left - Kaitlin Turner, first alternate; Brandi Hendrix, winner; Adrianna Lee, second alternate; and Kristin Wood, third alternate.

Elementary SGA hold canned food drive

Below are scenes captured during the New Brockton Elementary School SGA Food Drive held prior to the holidays. The SGA officers helped count and load the cans of food donated.



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LOOK AT THIS ONE!!!

Preparing for Miss Elba pageants

The New Season's Study Club currently is preparing for the 2004 Miss Elba pageants. The different age divisions will include Future Little Miss Elba (Ages 4 & 5), Little Miss Elba (First Grade), Junior Miss Elba (7th-10th grade), and Miss Elba (Ages 17-21).

A meeting will be held Friday, Jan. 16, at 5:30 p.m. at Elba Elementary School for the parents of those interested in participating in the Future Little Miss and Little Miss age divisions.

More pageant information will be provided as details are finalized by members of the New Season's Study Club.

Shop the Classifieds! Shop the Classifieds! Shop the Classifieds!



We will be closed Monday, January 19, 2004, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

Drive-in Window Services Will Be Available Saturday, January 17, 2004

The PEOPLES Bank

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New Brockton

SPORTS

Views from....

The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Melanie got a cell phone for Christmas and it has only taken her a few weeks to realize that when you talk on a cell phone time is money. We got her the phone so that we could keep up with her during ball season or just in case of an emergency, but she soon found out that voice messaging, text messaging and roaming charges can take their toll and cost a fortune. Last week the phone was off when she was at home and she even left it alone a few times when she headed out. I guess she has already learned enough in most figures out just how far her allowance can go, and has also figured out that talking on a cell phone can put a dent in her pocketbook. Oh well, just another lesson learned.

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH....

*** The Elba Tigers ended the week with a 9-6 record after dropping a key area contest on Friday night to Abbeville. The Tigers played with the highly-ranked Yellowjackets for much of three quarters and actually led midway through the third quarter, but went over five minutes without scoring a point during a stretch in the second half and never recovered. The Tigers have suffered such scoring droughts in almost all their losses this season, and until they get more consistent on offense they will continue to lose games they could have won. There is no doubt Elba has the skills to be big winners, but the time is now for the Tigers to step up and take their game to that next level.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers stunned the third-ranked Abbeville Lady Jackets early in the opening half and owned a 12-point first quarter lead before running out of gas and watching as Abbeville stormed back to claim a big win. The Lady Tigers have improved by leaps and bounds in recent weeks and after a slow start now appear on track to post a winning record and challenge for a spot in sub-region play. It may take a lot of time-outs to keep the girls fresh and a little luck from behind the three-point line to keep the points piling up, but these girls seem to be having fun and that should make it easier to handle.

*** The Kinston Bulldogs have been on a run lately and last week claimed three wins to push their record over the 500 mark for the season. Coach Gary Glass always plays a lot of games early in the season to get the players extra experience, and this year it looks like that plan is right on track. The Bulldogs have good size, good toughness and a group of players that leave it all on the court, and now that they know they can win maybe the wins will begin to pile up.

*** The Brantley Bulldogs struggled a little early in the season, but added 6-6 Derek Weeks to their roster after the holiday break and ever since have been on a roll. Weeks has led the Bulldogs in scoring in every game he has played, and last week helped Brantley avenge an early-season loss to Florala by blasting the Wildcats 78-48. His presence was also evident against McKenzie, a team that Brantley had beaten twice by only one point. With Weeks in the line-up the Bulldogs ran away and posted a 94-33 win! Watch out folks, the Brantley Bulldogs are now running on all cylinders and may just be the team to beat in A-1.

*** The Dothan Progress Holiday Basketball Tournament divided up the loot last week among the teams that took part in the event and this year over \$46,000 was given back to the schools. The four teams that made it to the finals got \$3,723.68 apiece, while the teams that lost in the first round got \$930.92. At over \$900 per game, you know that the coaches put a little extra into their preparation and know that all the teams in the area cherish an invitation. Back several years ago I told tournament officials that it was time to add a girls tournament to the holiday season, and I believe that now even more than ever. Girls fans will also turn out to watch their favorite teams compete, and the experience and funds raised will help everyone involved. Okay...let the girls in on the fun!

*** The NFL season was just another season of frustration for former Elba Tiger standout Ronald McKinnon, but McKinnon once again was one of the few bright spots for the Arizona Cardinals as he led the team in tackles for the fifth straight year and once again recorded over 100 tackles. McKinnon has been a force ever since joining the league eight years ago and has been one of the NFL's most consistent, and most underrated players throughout his career. I imagine Ronald long ago came to the conclusion that he will spend his career in the desert and will never get the credit he deserves, but it is obvious by his play that he is one of the best players in the NFL and he can rest assured that everyone in Elba, Alabama knows it is a fact.

*** Auburn got its letter from the NCAA last week concerning alleged violations in its basketball program and already the Auburn officials are crying that they are innocent of all charges. The NCAA charged that Auburn had arranged for the Mother of a high school recruit to get a car, and also charged that a recruit received six wire payments of \$200 to \$2,000. Other charges included paying to fly a recruit and his mother to Auburn and paying for hotel expenses, as well as having a car stereo system installed in the car of a recruit. It is never funny when the NCAA makes its charges because it doesn't have to prove anything and doesn't have to provide any of its sources. Maybe one day the major colleges will wise up and realize that it is the schools and their athletic teams that make the money, and not the NCAA, and give the NCAA and its investigators the death penalty.

*** It is hard to believe, but in just a matter of days baseball and softball practice will start at high schools across the state. I am a big fan of both sports and try to watch as many games as possible, but I wish the officials that make the decisions will one day slow down and try not to have every sport overlap into the next season. Sports are an extra-curricular activity at the high school level and should be a source of enjoyment and competition, not a source of problems for the student-athletes that like to play all the sports a school might offer. Some times it looks like the tail is wagging the dog.

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Post impressive road win

Elba Tigers run past Rebels 67-40

The Elba Tigers pulled ahead early and never looked back last Monday night in rolling to a surprisingly easy 67-40 win over the Zion Chapel Rebels, at Zion Chapel.

The win upped Elba's record to 8-5, while Zion Chapel slipped to 2-8 with the loss.

The Tigers jumped out to an early 3-1 lead on a three-pointer by Quinton Gavin and stretched their lead to 7-1 with 6:33 left in the first quarter after a steal and a lay-up by Mason Gulley and a short jumper by LaRay Williams. Zion Chapel cut the Elba lead to 7-5 on a basket by Abe Childs and trailed only 9-7 with 5:06 remaining in the stanza after a jumper by Luke Taylor, but Elba scored six straight points behind the inside play of Marchello Reed and Quinton Gavin and with 4:05 left in the quarter was back in command with a 15-7 advantage.

Elba saw the Rebels rally late in the opening stanza behind the play of Josh Smith and Luke Taylor and had its lead cut to 21-16 by the end of the stanza. However, the Tigers came out determined to regain command of the contest in the second quarter and opened the stanza with a 9-0 run to grab a 30-16 lead.

Marchello Reed powered inside for two baskets during the Elba rally, while Quinton Gavin added a three-pointer, and LaRay Williams scored from close as the Tigers opened up a 30-16 lead with 6:37 still left in the half.

A Josh Smith jumper with 4:32 left in the half snapped the Rebels' scoring drought, but Quinton Gavin continued his attack against the Zion Chapel defense and scored six points over the next two minutes as the Tigers' lead grew to 36-20.

The Rebels scored six quick points late in the half and cut the Elba lead to 36-26 with 3:22 remaining on the clock, but Quinton Gavin sparked the Tigers as he drilled a long three-pointer with only .03 remaining to allow Elba to carry a 39-26 lead in at the half.

If Zion Chapel had any thoughts of staging a second half rally they were quickly dashed in the opening minutes of the third quarter as Elba

scored nine unanswered points to open the quarter and opened up a big 48-26 lead.

Mason Gulley nailed a short jumper to start the Tiger rally, while Quinton Gavin scored seven straight points as the Tigers lead grew to 48-26 with 5:51 remaining in the third quarter.

The Rebels' Josh Smith hit the back end of a two-shot free-throw opportunity with 5:38 left in the quarter to stop the bleeding, but Elba scored the stanza's next six points to grab a 54-27 lead and earned a lopsided 54-29 advantage into the fourth quarter.

Elba's lead grew to 59-31 early in the fourth quarter on a basket by Reynmar Rogers, and the Tigers took their biggest lead of the game with 1:42 left when Duke Carr scored on a driving lay-up to give Elba a 67-37 advantage. Zion Chapel's Abe Childs drilled a three-pointer from deep in the corner with 1:06 left on the clock, however, it was way too little was too late as the Tigers posted the 67-40 win.

Quinton Gavin scored 28 points to lead Elba, while Marchello Reed added 17. Josh Smith scored 15 points to lead Zion Chapel.

EL 21 18 15 13 - 67
ZC 16 10 3 11 - 40

Elba (67): Gavin 28, Gulley 6, Williams 6, Carr 2, Reed 17, Logan 6, Rogers 2.
Z.C. (40): Smith 15, Wise 3, Taylor 8, White 5, Childs 9.

(B GAME)

The Elba Tigers led all the way to defeat the Zion Chapel Rebels 44-23, in B team action.

Elba pulled out to a 14-6 lead in the opening stanza and by the end of the third quarter owned a lopsided 41-13 advantage as the Tigers rolled to the easy win.

Jimmy Morris scored 17 points and Antwon Tillis added 10 to lead Elba, while McWaters scored 10 to lead Zion Chapel.

Elba (44): Hill 8, Starks 1, Cooks 2, Morris 17, Frazier 4, Tillis 10, Abbott 2.

Z.C. (23): McWaters 10, Jones 8, Leger 2, Holloway 2, Carter 1.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SCHEDULES

THURSDAY, JAN. 15

Kinston at Arton (4:30) JV-VG-VB

FRIDAY, JAN. 16

Elba at Luverne (4:30) JV-VG-VB

New Brockton at G.W. Long (5:00) JV-VG-VB

Brantley at Pleasant Home (4:30) JV-VG-VB

TUESDAY, JAN. 20

Straughn at Elba (4:30) JV-VG-VB

New Brockton at Highland Home (4:30) JV-VG-VB

Georgiana at Brantley (4:30) JV-VG-VB

Kinston at Zion Chapel (4:30) JV-VG-VB

JV - Junior Varsity VG - Varsity Girls
VB - Varsity Boys

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Elba Tiger sophomore Kikko Logan (32) drives for a basket. Logan and the Tigers opened the new year last week with a big 67-40 win over Zion Chapel.

(Photo by John Wallace - Andalusia Star/News)

In 68-54 loss to Abbeville

Second half scoring drought dooms Tigers

The Elba Tigers hosted the fourth-ranked Abbeville Yellowjackets Friday night with the top spot in the area standings up for grabs and hung with the highly-ranked Yellowjackets for three quarters before falling 68-54.

The loss, dropped Elba's record to 9-6, 1-1 in area play, while Abbeville upped its record to 13-3, 2-0 in the area, with the tough road win.

A basket by Marchello Reed enabled Elba to cut the Abbeville lead to 50-44 early in the fourth quarter, but the Jackets quickly recovered and moved on top 55-44 with 6:26 left on the clock.

Elba cut the deficit to 55-46 with 5:52 left on a jumper by Quinton Gavin. However, the Tigers failed to score again for the next four minutes, and by the time Marchello Reed stopped the drought with a short jumper with 1:13 left, Abbeville had taken complete command and was on top 66-46.

Quinton Gavin added two three-pointers in the final minute as the Tigers battled until the final horn, but the long scoring drought was too much to overcome as the Tigers took the loss 68-54.

Quinton Gavin scored 20 points to lead Elba, while Mason Gulley added 8. Jamaal Mills scored 14 points to lead Abbeville and Victor Fryer added 11.

A 14 18 18 18 - 68
E 12 19 11 12 - 54

Abbeville (68): Smith 8, Stanford 6, Knight 2, Sewell 9, McNair 2, Carter 4, Baker 8, Grubbs 4, Fryer 11, Mills 14.

Elba (54): Gulley 8, Williams 6, Gavin 20, Curran 7, Reed 7, Logan 6.

(B GAME)

The Elba Tigers saw an early lead vanish as the Abbeville Yellowjackets rallied to claim a 64-37 win. Friday night in B team action.

Abbeville (64): Kinley 2, Wiggins 11, Mitchell 10, Knight 13, Harris 7, M. Culver 9, C. Culver 6, Spivey 6.
Elba (37): Hill 9, Starks 2, Jackson 1, Robinson 4, Cooks 4, Morris 6, Johnson 3, Tillis 1, Abbott 5, Carpenter 2.

SPORTS

Even record at 5-5

Lady Tigers zap Zion Chapel 54-40

The Elba Lady Tigers claimed their fourth straight win last Monday night by rolling past the winless Zion Chapel Lady Rebels 54-40, at Zion Chapel.

The Lady Tigers came out ready to play and behind the play of Ayonna Proctor and LaFondra Thigpen opened up an 8-0 lead with 5:44 remaining in the first quarter. The Lady Rebels got on the scoreboard with 5:10 left on a free-throw by Nessa Wambles, but Proctor and Ashleigh Waddail answered with baskets inside to help Elba up its lead to 12-1 with 3:15 still left on the opening stanza.

A three-pointer by Ayonna Proctor with 2:19 left in the quarter upped Elba's lead to 15-3, while the Lady Tigers took their biggest lead of the half with 3:26 remaining in the second quarter when Ashleigh Waddail scored from inside to up the Elba lead to 24-8.

A basket by Jennifer Taylor

and three free-throws by Keri Hobbs helped the Lady Rebels rally late in the half, but the Lady Tigers remained in command and at intermission went in with a 28-15 advantage.

Elba's lead grew to 33-15 early in the third quarter behind the scoring punch of Ayonna Proctor and LaFondra Thigpen and the Lady Tigers owned a 37-19 lead with 4:21 left when Elba called a time-out and emptied its bench.

The Lady Rebels' Jennifer Taylor scored two baskets from in close to help Zion Chapel cut into the Elba lead midway through the stanza, but Elba's Brittany Caldwell scored from inside with 2:40 left on the clock to up the Lady Tiger lead to 39-23, and despite a late Lady Rebel rally the Lady Tigers carried a 39-28 advantage into the final stanza.

The Elba starters reentered

the game in to open the fourth quarter and quickly regained command as Ashleigh Waddail and LaFondra Thigpen sparked a 6-0 run that upped the Elba lead to 45-28 with 7:14 remaining in the stanza.

Elba's lead grew to 51-32 with 4:57 left on a three-pointer by LaFondra Thigpen, and the Lady Tiger reserves then came back and mopped up the 54-40 road win over Zion Chapel.

Ayonna Proctor scored 18 points to lead Elba, while LaFondra Thigpen added 13 and Ashleigh Waddail scored 9. Nessa Wambles scored 20 points to lead Zion Chapel.

Elba (54): Proctor 18, T. Thigpen 13, Waddail 9, Reynolds 7, L. Thigpen 13, Tyson 2, Caldwell 2.

Z.C. (40): Rayburn 2, Wambles 20, Hobbs 4, Beasley 2, Taylor 6, Flowers 1, Hodge 3, Lewis 2.



ELBA TIGER CHEERLEADERS...had plenty to cheer about last week as all three Tiger teams claimed wins over Zion Chapel. The Tigers will travel to Luverne Friday night and return home next Tuesday against Straughn.

(Photo by John Wallace - Andalusia Star/News)

Lady Tigers drop area clash to Abbeville 63-36

The Elba Lady Tigers hosted the third-ranked Abbeville Lady Yellowjackets Friday night and threw a scare into the state power for two quarters before they ran out of gas and then watched as Abbeville ran away to claim a 63-36 win.

The loss dropped Elba's record to 6-6, 0-2 in area play, while Abbeville improved to 14-2, 2-0 in area action, with the road win.

Elba jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead on a three-pointer by LaFondra Thigpen and moved ahead 5-0 with 6:02 remaining in the first quarter after two free-throws by YoYo Reynolds. Abbeville got on the scoreboard with 5:40 left in the quarter to cut the lead to 5-2, but the Lady Tigers answered with a 7-0 run to open up a big 12-2 lead with 3:41 still left in the quarter.

A three-pointer by Ayonna Proctor sparked the 7-0 run, while YoYo Reynolds turned two turnovers into four points as the Lady Tigers grabbed the early ten-point lead.

Abbeville managed to cut the

Elba lead to 12-4 with 3:00 left. However, Elba's YoYo Reynolds continued to attack the Lady Jacket defense and scored two late baskets as the Lady Tigers moved on top 16-4 by the end of the stanza.

Ashleigh Waddail converted a three-point play with 5:35 remaining in the second quarter as the Lady Tigers remained in command with a 19-8 lead, but Abbeville wasn't about to go down without a fight and scored the game's next 10 points to pull within 19-18 with 2:52 left in the half.

Abbeville moved ahead 48-31 early in the fourth quarter and never looked back as they outscored the Lady Tigers 15-5 over the final six minutes to run away and post the big 63-36 win.

YoYo Reynolds scored 11 points to lead Elba, while Ayonna Proctor added 8 and Ashleigh Waddail scored 7. Robin Porter scored 20 points to lead Abbeville.

Abbeville (63): McCloud 2, Hull 7, Thomas 1, Craddock 2, Baker 2, Porter 20, Johnson 8, Wells 4, Flucke 8, Spann 7, Durr 2.

Elba (36): Proctor 8, T. Thigpen 3, Waddail 7, Reynolds 11, L. Thigpen 5, Wood 1, Carpenter 1.

Area high school teams move into Alabama Sports Writers Association prep basketball standings

The Alabama Sports Writers Association released its first state high school basketball poll of the new year last week and included among the state's elite were a number of area teams.

Following is the complete list of the state's "Top 10" teams in all six classes in both boys and girls divisions:

BOYS DIVISION

CLASS 6A:
1. John Carroll Catholic
2. Baldwin County
3. LeFlore
4. Parker
5. Central, Phenix City
6. Mt. Brook
7. Sparkman
8. Tuscaloosa County
9. Montgomery Carver
10. Auburn

CLASS 5A:
1. West End
2. Albertville
3. Athens
4. Butler
5. Charles Henderson
6. Pleasant Grove
7. Muscle Shoals
8. Wilcox Central
9. Homewood
10. Erwin

CLASS 4A:
1. Deshler
2. Ashford
3. Comer
4. Jacksonville
5. Coosa Central
6. East Limestone
7. Alexandria
8. Trussville
9. St. James
10. Monroe County

CLASS 3A:
1. Calhoun
2. Sumter County
3. B.B. Comer
4. Abbeville
5. Crossville
6. Lanett
7. Good Hope
8. Francis Marion
9. Litchfield
10. Lauderdale County

CLASS 2A:
1. R.C. Hatch

CLASS 4A

1. Deshler
2. Guntersville
3. Cherokee County
4. Haleyville
5. Elmore County
6. UMS-Wright
7. East Lawrence
8. Brooks
9. Madison County
10. Lawrence County

CLASS 3A:
1. Lauderdale County
2. T.R. Miller
3. Abbeville
4. Plainview
5. DAR
6. Glencoe
7. West Limestone
8. Phil Campbell
9. Straughn
10. Holly Pond

CLASS 2A:
1. Hanton
2. Tanner
3. Sylva
4. Cold Springs
5. Samson
6. Red Bay
7. Lexington
8. Fyffe
9. Calera
10. Flomaton

CLASS 1A:
1. Notusale
2. Spring Garden
3. J.F. Shields
4. Hazlewood
5. Speake
6. Waterloo
7. Addison
8. Clay County
9. Lynn
10. Jacksonville Christian

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Did You Know?

NLC - Drug & Alcohol Prog.	44	# of Graduates
Transportation	93	Vouchers (Individuals)
Medication	117	Vouchers (Individuals)
On-Site Emergency Shelter	2,819	Nights
On-Site Program Clients	6,557	Nights
Off-Site Shelter	108	Nights
On/Off-Site Shelter	553	Individuals Sheltered
Rent/Mortgage	56	Individuals # of Bills Paid - 26
Utilities	776	Individuals # of Bills Paid - 156
Clothing	1,186	Vouchers (Individuals)
Furniture	614	Vouchers (Individuals)
Misc	68	Vouchers (Individuals)
Pantry	3,207	Individuals
Total Individuals Helped	6,348	
On-Site Meals	20,205	
Walk-In Meals	1,994	
Home Bound Meals	43,286	
Total Meals Served	66,185	

Students named to honor roll at Elba High School

Seventh Grade: Kimberly Michele Blue, Meredith Brunson, April Eugenia Findore, Lee Andrew Head, Robyn Denise Hudson, Michael Harris Jackson, David Eric Maddaloni, Kristopher Jordan McBride, Dylan Reese McCollough, Jason Carter Mitchell, Cody Lee Sasser and Bradley Stephen Wilson, Jr.

Eighth Grade: Guccie Hudson, James Douglas Martin III and Brittany Lashawn Phillips.

Ninth Grade: Brianna Lynne Bailey, Brim Dean Blair, Chase William Boutwell, Christina Young Bryant, Eric Lee Butts, Mary Catherine Cash, Lauren Alexis McClung and Melanie Reese Mularz.

Tenth Grade: Kayla Michelle Byrd, Ashley Michelle Canley, Lloyd Grantham Carr, Lashonda Cole, Lonzo Dearle Cooks, Brittany Nicole Hudson, Timothy Carmichael Jackson, Kayla Marie Kelley, Whitney Vaughan Lawford, Kikio Logan, Annie Elena McCormick, Casey Michele Medlock, Gale Olson, Amber Nichole Pike, Kendall Rebecca Stinson, Ashleigh Hayden Waddell, Elizabeth Emily Weeks, Rashawnda Renee Whitfield, Hubert Alan Willis and Shawanna Monique Wright.

Eleventh Grade: Mallory Paige Allen, Stuart Bradley Bane, Sarah-Kristin Barnes, Britney Lakeitha Clark, Rebecca Gena English, Ashley Renee Gibson, Jennifer Leigh Grissett, Cameron M. Irwin, Lyndsay Kathryn Lawford, Jessica Merklin, Alison Smith, Lance Sutley and Justin Harold Williams.

Twelfth Grade: John Alexander Allen, Anna Marie Anderson, Ella Blake Brunson, Mark Evan Brunson, Colby Michael Capps, Brittany Lachelle Cooper, Lance Quintrez Cross, Benjamin Bailey Dye, Meredith Ruth English, Christy Renae Eubanks, Quinton Sanchez Gavin, Kaci L. Grantham, Mary Katherine Head, Hannah Rebecca Martin, Zachary Drayton, Kristina Lecann Prizgen, Ayonna Catrice Procter and Nina Marie West.

Seventh Grade: Shelby Danielle Adcock, Jamison Keith Baker, Courtland Trey Belcher, Griffin Taylor Cash, Brittany Kristen Davis, Cyricka Vanshaka Shanice Dean, Ethen Dodd, Sonya Michelle Dodd, Katrina Head, Cortlin Megan Lee, Kelly Catherine Miller, Shanika Pruitt, Laquita Sharda Reed, Kiera Shade Robertson and Michael Ryan Spurlin.

Eighth Grade: Reatta Shanay Anderson, Ashley Nicole Carpenter, Kiswana Nashon Cole, Erica Nequell Daniels, J. Matthew Bryan Gibson, William Gray Thomas Cordel Carrington Hooks, Bobby Randell Hudson, Toshamba Finiece Jones, Dancesha Shanay Jordan, Martin E. McCormick, Jesse Franklin Oglesby, Taitiana Rashe Parker, Ladon Rhoades, Jonathon Ashton Rodriguez, Tierney Keyana Starks, Yokesha Audria Terry, Dimetrio Martinez Tyson and Renanda Renae Williams.

Ninth Grade: Robert Calvin Allen, Whitney Amber Bailey, Sydney Treadwell Brunson, Will Dodd, Emily Leigh Driggers, Michael Lamar Hall, Adam Leland Henderson, Timothy Chafin Johnson, Whitney Deanna Kierease, Joann Mitchell, Whitney Sierra Sasser, Tracie Spinks, Ladarius Antwon Tillis and Yuliana Crustuba Vega.

Tenth Grade: Chase Edward Boutwell, Victoria Ann Brooks, Leigh-Anna Aleece Bryant, Stephanie Kristin Corder, Jessica Nicole Frost, Daniel Chase Graham, Leonard W. Grantham III, Heather Nichole Harper, Lewis Vernon Johnson, Todd Hamilton Kelley, Tamra Denise Oliver, Amanda Rose Pope, Dustin Dwain Rhoades, Demetrius Rashad Robinson, Jon Reynard Rogers, Summer Nicole Stricklin, Latoya Nicole Tyson, Judson Will Vaughan, Laymon Lamar Ware, Aubrey Laray Linger Williams and Princes Wood.

Eleventh Grade: William Grigsby Barnes III, Chadwick KC Boutwell, Allison Lee Brunson, Ashley Nicole Chandler, Kaleb Kimberly Dyess, Brandon Edward Farris, Robert Ryan Gibbs, Anna Marie Harrison, Heather Nicole Knight, Joshua Miller, Lanitra Olivia Reed, Yalonda Reynolds, Jessie Schultz, Matthew Clark Skinner, Adam Richard Spicer, Kristi Michelle Spinks, Carmeisha Wright and Cornelius Dexter Wright.

Twelfth Grade: Lucy Jarz Carille, Kayona Michelle Carpenter, Jessica Marie Danford, Shaunna Sharae Hammonds, Pasco Alton Lindsey, Ralston Dell Moore, Shonda Lanea Morris, Charles Tyler Norris, Kelli Nicole Richard, Ashley Smith, Jessica C. Sowell, Leanna Sutley, Tunisia Rashae Thigpen, James Frederick Thomas, John Eric Wambles and Michelle Monique Weston.

Kinston Elementary School Honor Roll

First Grade: Addison Archie, Noah Canley, Lindsey Cazessus, T.J. Glass, Marley Jacobs, Courtney Moulton, Ben Nelson, Dylan Rhoades, Grayson Sessions and Lukas Taylor.

Second Grade: Kelsey Canley, Lane Clark, Caitlin Cooper, Ethan Davis, C.J. Edwards, Chelbie Fuller, Brittany Hardy, Avery Hataway, Evan Jackson, Cassidy Johnson, Mahala Johnson, Kade Mercer, Allona Rushing, Patrick Smith, Madison Weeks and Tucker Whigham.

Third Grade: Anissa Davis, Katie Lowery, Kaleb Mack and Emily Mock.

Fourth Grade: Natasha Mack, Britany Moulton, Caitlyn Norris, Joseph Parrish and Brittany Smith.

Fifth Grade: James Jones.

Sixth Grade: Lee Devine, Bethany Holley, Courtney Parrish, Erika Rhodes, Kallie Rhodes and Amber Smith.

First Grade: Trace Archie, Braden Dorsey, David Farris, Morgan Grosland, C.J. Hollinghead, Echo Johnson, Cody Wambles, Callie Weeks and Colton Wilkerson.

Second Grade: Clay Canley, Tracey Chandler, Karegan Davis, Robert Falls, Faith Golden, Hayden Harper, Caitlin Humphries, Cory Lashley, Clay Moss, Kevin Nobles and Joseph Sanders.

Third Grade: Aubree Archie, Mikayla Bird, Andrew Fowler, Pamela Grace, Ashley Sims and Summer Wilkerson.

Fourth Grade: Blake Avant, Gallie Brown, Mallori Davis, Mason Davis, Tori Devine, Jacob Stevens, Devin Holloway, Mary Katherine Mack, Kyle Whitman and Taylor Wilkerson.

Fifth Grade: Hunter Anderson, Trent Archie, Andrew Coleman, Dylan Ray, Gunter Davis, Bethany Hawthorne, Sara Mock and Danny Williams.

Sixth Grade: Jake Blackmon, Hannah Forehand, Ric Johnson and Chelsea Weatherington.

Let's Go... Outdoors with Ben

by Ben Norman, Sports Columnist

Archeologist tell us that man crafted his first fish hooks out of bone and tied them onto a line he wove from the tail of wild horses. They even have evidence that early man used what is known as a circle hook today. Whether he made it in that shape on purpose or the piece of bone he had dictated it, no one is sure.

Regardless of how the circle hook was invented, it is enjoying a comeback among today's anglers. The bend of a circle hook makes part of a circle so that the point of the hook is pointed back toward the hook's shank. This configuration looks strange when compared to the traditional hook that's point is parallel to the hook shank. As soon as a fish takes the bait with an imbedded circle hook he closes his jaw. This causes the hook to rotate. As the line tightens, the hook is dragged toward the mouth until it reaches the fish's jaw. As the line is tightened, the hook becomes imbedded in the jaw.

Circle hooks are manufactured in every size, from blue gill to large saltwater sizes. While they can be used in almost any fishing application with live or dead bait, they are especially popular with catfishermen. It is with setlines and trotlines that the hook-set ratio really increases. One catfisherman I talked to said his ratio of hooked fish on setlines had increased dramatically and that over 80 percent of the fish were hooked in the corner of the mouth.

He especially liked the hooks when it came to releasing fish. "I seldom have a cat that is hooked deep in the gullet when using circle hooks. It just stands to reason more small fish are going to survive if they are hooked in the lip rather than if they swallow it," he said.

Fishing circle hooks with a pole or rod takes a little getting used to. We have all been conditioned to set the hook when we get a strike. This is usually a knee jerk reaction where we jerk the rod upward in a sweeping arch. If an angler tries to set a circle hook in this manner, they will usually snatch the hook right out of the fish's mouth.

Setting a circle hook is accomplished with a steady pull rather than with a fast hook set. After the fish takes the hook, apply only enough pressure to rotate the hook where the point will snag in the jaw as it is pulled forward. It is much more difficult for a fish to throw a circle hook as it can't be backed straight out like a conventional hook. Even if the line goes slack, they will stay hooked.

Next time you go fishing with natural baits, give the circle hook a try. Just remember that the old "cross his eyes" hook set won't work just apply steady pressure to set the hook.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Winners recognized in different age divisions of Kinston's 2003 Miss Christmas pageant



The Kinston Athletic Club sponsored the Miss Christmas pageant Saturday, Dec. 6, at Kinston High School.

The winners and alternates are shown here for the different age divisions.



Mary-Brooklyn Kay Moore was crowned queen of the 0-11 month old age group.



Payton Gabrielle Foster (center) was crowned queen of the 1-4 year old age group. First alternate was Bailey Holley (left), and second alternate was Alison Bailey (right).



Arissa Neely Davis (center) was crowned queen of the 5-8 year old age group. First alternate was Charlene Wyatt (left), and second alternate was Amberly Anderson (right).



Ramsi Smith (center) was crowned queen of the 9-12 year old age group. First alternate was Chastie Chancellor (left), and second alternate was Britni Cosby (right).



Brianna Bowers (center) was crowned queen of the 12-18 months old age group. Second alternate was Kelcey Sanders (left), and first alternate was Sarah White (right).



Addison Archie (center) was crowned queen of the 5-6 year old age group. First alternate was Alanna Spann (left), and second alternate was Madelyn Brook Kelley (right).



Katie Ward (center) was crowned queen of the 11-12 year old age group. First alternate was Ashley Snell (left), and second alternate was Amber Jacobs (right).



Sabrina Smith (center) was crowned queen of the 13-14 year old age group. First alternate was Stephanie Meyers (left), and second alternate was Candace Strickland (right).

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warranty - two to choose from - only **\$14,900⁰⁰**

